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The John Muir Newsletter, Fall 2006

The John Muir Center for Environmental Studies

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THE JOHN MUIR NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC, STOCKTON, CA

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 4

FALL 2006

JOHN MUIR'S WORLD TOUR (PART IV)

Introduction by W. R. Swagerty

Director, John Muir Center

Edited by John Hurley and W.R. Swagerty

In Part IV of John Muir's unpublished World Tour, we follow Muir from Egypt to Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to Australia. Notebook "# 51" begins with a description of Suez as a "queer old town" followed by praise for the oasis-environment that produces so many palms and bananas. Much of the notebook focuses on Muir's touring of the Pyramids, those "stupendous monuments of the past" which are less impressive to Muir "when closely approached" than from a distance. Up close, he writes of the tombs of Assiout, "Smell horrid, strong as the centuries." And elsewhere, "How old the world is since civilization!"

We include one sketch of three pyramids that he made, but this segment of his trip is disappointing for lack of drawings and illustrations, given what he was observing. On one occasion he gives us clues why sketching was minimalized. November 9: "Bought more photos of ruins, inhabitants, etc." Some of these have survived, but most have not.

Throughout Egypt, Muir's comments on human activities reveal his keen power of observation when subsistence needs and human priorities transform landscapes. He describes in some depth the crops, animals, and technologies used by Egyptians and rides a donkey himself on one leg of his expedition. Overall, he is not impressed with the status of modern Egypt, commenting on

one occasion, "Universal beggary prevails;" and on another, "Few geniuses in any age." Still, as in all of his journeys of discovery, Muir finds the flowers, trees, sunrises, and sunsets "charming," a universal word in Muir's vocabulary describing his "plant friends" and the colors of dawn and dusk.

Muir left Port Said on the German steamer *Barbarossa* bound for Australia on November 22. During a brief stop-over in Ceylon, Muir was most impressed with the coconut palms, as well the bread fruit trees, jack fruit trees, banyans, and especially the purple-flowered lotus. A Buddhist temple intrigued him wherein the priest explained, "many kinds of hell in pictures for different sinners, and got two or three fees out of us." Equally impressive were the native catamarans and "canoes with outriggers," which he sailed for the first time on December 5 prior to departure for Australia the next day.

Now in the Southern Hemisphere, after "crossing the line," the long-anticipated Southern Cross turned out to be a "Not very striking constellation." Arriving at Perth on December 16, Muir the botanist returns to describing in detail the fascinating new plants and trees that he discovers immediately upon landing. For the next month, as new species of eucalyptus, gum trees, pines, and others are encountered, Muir's excitement shines through as

(Continued on page 4)

NEWS & NOTES

FUNDS FOR STUDY OF RESTORING HETCH HETCHY VALLEY FACE LONG ODDS

By Michael Doyle

The Mercury News

Posted on Wed, Feb. 07, 2007

WASHINGTON - The Bush administration's quiet request for \$7 million to study restoring the Hetch Hetchy Valley - which Sierra Club founder John Muir dubbed "Yosemite's twin" - keeps a controversy flowing, but probably not for long.

This week, the administration slid the Hetch Hetchy study money into its overall Interior Department budget proposal. If Congress approves it, it would pay for research into the environmental and economic consequences of removing Hetch Hetchy's O'Shaughnessy Dam.

"We are extremely pleased that the federal government has seen fit to become a full partner with California in the Hetch Hetchy restoration-study process," said Ron Good, the executive director of the Sonoma, Calif., organization Restore Hetch Hetchy. Almost certainly, the pleasure will be short-lived.

"It's dead on arrival," Rep. George Radanovich, R-Calif., said Wednesday. "It's a complete surprise, and I don't support one bit of it."

Hetch Hetchy Valley broke Muir's heart. He bitterly fought San Francisco's plans to flood the valley for a reservoir, finally losing when Congress passed a 1913 law. Ever since, environmentalists - and others - periodically have suggested removing the dam.

Fifteen miles north of Yosemite Valley, the original Hetch Hetchy Valley was known for magnificent waterfalls and high-rising cliffs. Now, the Tuolumne River, which once flowed freely through it, is backed up for one of California's 19 reservoirs.

Radanovich, who represents Yosemite, said Bush administration officials didn't consult him. He's not happy about that. Now, he said, he wants to find out who the administration did consult with.

Another prominent skeptic of the Hetch Hetchy proposal chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee panel that funds the Interior Department. A former mayor of San Francisco, California Democratic Sen.

Dianne Feinstein dismissed the prospects of draining the reservoir that's served the city since the dam was completed in 1923.

"I will do all I can to make sure it isn't included in the final bill," Feinstein promised in a prepared statement. "We're not going to remove this dam, and the funding is unnecessary." Although Yosemite National Park officials had heard earlier rumors of the study, they also weren't directly consulted about the proposal. They learned for sure when the budget was released Monday.

Asked for a further assessment of the proposal Wednesday, the National Park Service offered only Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne's comment that the \$7 million would allow "discussions with the state of California."

The administration says it wants to build on preliminary Hetch Hetchy research that's already been conducted in California. That doesn't persuade skeptics.

"The state has done the analysis," Feinstein said. "It would cost between \$3 billion and \$10 billion to remove a dam that provides clean drinking water for 3 million people."

Completed last year, the California Resources Agency's 68-page study of Hetch Hetchy concluded that "much work remains to be done" in answering crucial questions, including how the 312-foot-high dam would be removed, how the water and power would be replaced and how to count the economic benefits of a restored Hetch Hetchy Valley.

"It is clear that further investigations into Hetch Hetchy Valley restoration cannot be led by the state of California alone," the agency said.

The state report estimated that it would take \$7 million - the amount that the Bush administration now seeks - for a "conceptual" study and another \$13 million for a further "reconnaissance"-level study.

NEW BOOK ABOUT JOHN MUIR

A Wanderer All My Days

John Muir in New England

J. Parker Huber (Author)

Compiled from John Muir's journal entries, letters, and hundreds of additional sources, this resource presents a detailed examination of Muir's travels throughout New England—from the mountains of Maine to the halls of Harvard University. With comprehensive insights into Muir's wanderings, this unique reference discusses the beginnings of the environmental movement as well as how 19th century New England literary society evolved. This distinctive look at Muir showcases how he was just as much shaped by the cultural landscapes of the East as he was by the pathless expanses of the West.

J. Parker Huber is the author of *The Wildest Country: A Guide to Thoreau's Maine*. He is the editor of the book *Elevating Ourselves: Thoreau on Mountains* and the annual magazine *Writing Nature*. He lives in Brattleboro, Vermont.

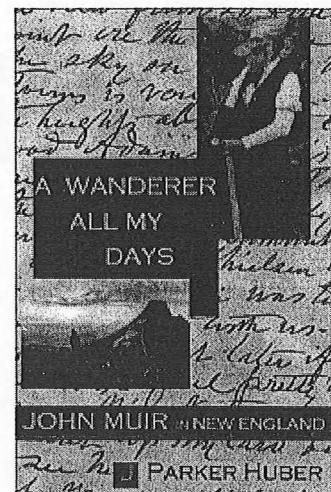
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♦ STAFF ♦

DIRECTOR.....W.R. SWAGERTY
EDITOR.....W.R. SWAGERTY
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT.....MARILYN NORTON

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THE TRAMP'S WEB SITE IS VAMPED

By Michael Wurtz
Archivist, Holt-Atherton Special Collections
University of the Pacific Library

This last fall, the Holt-Atherton Special Collections staff completely redesigned the repository's web site in order to help researchers find what they are looking for. Special Collections' holdings have been virtually separated into four categories: Western Americana, University Archives, the Brubeck Collection, and the John Muir Papers. Western Americana is a catch-all that includes information on collections that document Western history such as Japanese-American internment during World War II, the famous football coach Amos Alonzo Stagg, and the repository's specialized books. The University Archives section offers an overview of Pacific's vital records from 1851 to the present. The Brubeck Collection part of the site focuses on jazz pianist Dave Brubeck's materials and also maintains a slide show about his involvement in Civil Rights and a photo gallery for researchers of selections from thousands of photographs in his collection.

The John Muir Papers part of the site has undergone an update as well. First of all, there is a new, briefer URL: library.pacific.edu/ha/muir. The new site guides researchers to the online finding aid for the John Muir Papers on the Online Archive of California (OAC). The finding aid is a comprehensive list and description of the materials in the Muir Papers – kind of like a table of contents, index, and abstract all rolled into one. In addition to the finding aid, there is an overview of the collection for researchers.

A searchable index to Muir correspondence and photographs that was published in *The Guide and Index to the Microform Edition of the John Muir Papers 1858-1957* and a complete list of repositories around the world

that have the microform version John Muir Papers is also now available.

Ever since the John Muir Papers came to the University of the Pacific, the staff has supported the collection by obtaining other material rich in content about Muir, his family, and his interests. The new web site describes all of these Muir related collections, from the William Bade Papers to the James Eastman Shone Collection, and provides links to finding aids that are available through OAC. Also included in the Muir related material is a link to a list of books in Muir's personal library.

Undergraduate and graduate students at the University of the Pacific are encouraged to use the John Muir Papers. To help meet the needs of the "Google generation," the new web site provides a link to the Sierra Club's Muir site which features full text of most of Muir books and many of his articles. The ease at which researchers can search for keywords within his books will make this link a very popular one.

The staff of Special Collections thanks the library's Media Specialist Glenn Pillsbury for designing the site and student Harrison Inefuku for creating the bold icons that are used to tie all the Special Collections pages together. We invite you to visit our new web site and let us know how well it works for you.

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Holt-Atherton Special Collections



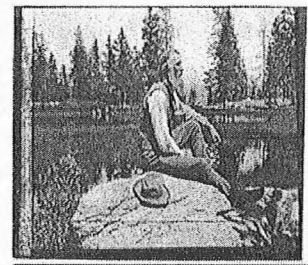
The John Muir Papers

As a renowned naturalist, explorer, writer, and conservationist, John Muir is considered a forefather of the modern environmental movement.

John Muir (1838-1914) led the nation toward an understanding and appreciation of the natural environment and its value as both a material and spiritual resource. His most important national contribution grew out of his political activism. Recognized as one of the driving forces behind the National Park system, Muir was instrumental in the establishment of Yosemite, Sequoia, Grand Canyon, Mt. Rainier, and other parks. As founder and first president of the Sierra Club in 1892, he established the most influential organization in the conservation field.

Since 1970, Holt-Atherton Special Collections has been the repository for the John Muir Papers. Today, approximately 75% of the extant papers of Muir are housed at the Holt-Atherton Special Collections.

- ▣ Finding Aid & Index of the John Muir Papers
- ▣ Overview of John Muir Papers contents
- ▣ Related Muir Collections available at Pacific
- ▣ Full text of some of Muir's writings ([at sierraclub.org](http://sierraclub.org))



John Muir, c.1902

The new John Muir Papers web site at the Holt-Atherton Special Collections web site has been designed to guide the researchers to finding aids and descriptions of materials available at the University of the Pacific.

(Continued from page 1)

the reader is given a lesson in the flora of Australia and New Zealand. So impressed with the flowering gum tree, Muir bought his wife Louie a painting of the plant.

From Perth to Fremantle and on to Adelaide and then Melbourne, Muir's main focus upon reaching ports was to connect with each city's botanical garden and any staff available to give him a personal orientation. A tour overland by rail and stage of the forests near Healsville reassured him that some of the "forest primeval" had survived. At the Hermitage, his main thought compares the government forests "to the boundless extension [sic.] of trees over hill and dale like the Appalachian," a memory going back to his thousand mile walk to the Gulf of Mexico in 1867. Much becalmed after seeing "the unchanged forest" with its tall canopy of trees reaching up to "270 feet, growth arrested by parasite," he returned to Melbourne rejuvenated, celebrating the new year by taking in the zoo and more of the botanical areas in the next few days, as well as turning his attention to the geological history of the great island-continent.

From January 3-5, 1904, Muir toured the Jenolan Cave region en route to Mt. Victoria, then on to Sydney, a total distance from Melbourne of "about 350 miles," he calculated. After visiting the Sydney Botanical Gardens, Muir's lifelong curiosity in finding the biggest trees resurfaced in his interaction with the director, Mr. Maiden, who assured him there were no eucalyptus in Australia "much, if any, over 300 feet in height." Muir would continue to seek out the big trees here and in New Zealand as his world journey continued. On January 0, he saw his old ship, the *Barbarossa* sail away. Muir wrote, "Felt lonely as she moved from the wharf."

So ends notebook fifty-one, edited with the assistance of John Hurley, a senior history major whose capstone research project focused on Muir's 1903-1904 world tour. Mr. Hurley has combed the manuscript and the transcription, and has found several errors made by transcriber Linnie Marsh Wolfe that we have corrected in brackets. Where it is unclear what Muir wrote, we indicate such with brackets and suggestions. Where he left out words with a blank underscored, we have left that as is. Those familiar with Muir's economy of pencil and paper and his handwriting, cursive but very small and often with his own system of abbreviations, will appreciate why some of his more obscure journals are just now being studied and edited. We plan to complete the world tour within the year.

W.R. Swagerty

November 3rd

Had a good dinner and slept well at the Hotel Bel Air. Suez queer old town. Some good buildings and gardens. Palms, bananas thrive and indeed most everything where water may be had.

Left for Cairo at 11:00 A.M. Train runs along the side of Canal to Ismalia, fresh water canal from Nile makes oases here and there. Palm groves the characteristic feature of the landscape like islands in sea of sand. Here, we changed cars and met train from Port Said. After crossing desert much like some of Great Basin with patches of sage here and there, or Acacia we came suddenly into broad fertile valley on delta of the Nile - one continuous field and garden. All the horizon crowded with date palms, some close at hand in groves, avenues and standing snugly or in little groups out in extensive fields of cotton, now ripe, most of it gathered, one of the principal crops of Egypt, - and of maize and millet.

The best of the cotton said to be the best in the world, better than the famous Sea Island cotton of America and fetching bigger price at Liverpool, so one of the expert cotton buyers here told me. As soon as the crop is gathered the stalks are collected in bundles for fuel, and the ground stirred by old-fashioned forged stick plow for another crop. 10 or 12 miles before reaching Cairo, I caught sight of the 2 highest of the Ghizeh [Giza] pyramids, looming hazy and faint in the mellow glow of evening in opening between the palms. A most impressive view.

Arrived Cairo at 5:00 P.M. and drove to Shepherds Hotel, a magnificent place in a busy grand street. The town is swarming with all sorts of people and animals and carriages, from horses, camels, donkeys - lovely little twinkling lambled trotters, mules, etc.

November 4th

Went to Cooks and engaged passage to Australia on next German Lloyd steamer, one at Port Said on the 22nd, instead; also to the First Cataract at Assouan, up the Nile on steamer, back to Cairo on rail on morning of the 18th. Rested most of the day.

November 5th

Started at 7:40 this morning for the Pyramids by carriage to station and electric train to Pyramids, arriving in about an hour. They stand on a slight rocky ridge or hillock on the edge of the Libyan Desert, commanding extensive views of the great rich delta of the Nile which at present is under water, soaking for wheat, making it look like a sea far as the eye can reach, dotted with palm clumps and slight elevations on which the homesteads are like islands. The dry desert over whose nearly plantless rocks blinding sand drifts is here seen in abrupt contact with the watery delta so long a symbol of perennial fertility.

The pyramids much less impressive when closely approached. Don't seem as high while their rough broken talus-encumbered bases make them look like hills of erosion of stratified rocks like some of the smaller of Nature's architectural buildings in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, but when we go close up and by this exact jointing realize that human hands long gone to dust had hewn and lifted and placed every stone, then comes wonder and views of a very auld land syne that exert

marvellous influence on imagination. The stones about 4 feet cube, the lower tiers about this height, and so broken and eroded, mountaineers find no difficulty in climbing it only when that is the Great or Cheops Pyramid. The Caphrenes [Khafre] seems higher, standing on higher ground, and the upper part some 100 feet or so is smooth showing that the whole pyramid had been smoothly finished and polished.

Several smaller ones near these 2 large, the largest of the small about 200 feet high, and the others dwindle to tombs of ordinary size, and in the distance other great pyramids rise with grand effect, especially at Sakara.

The Sphinx cut from the solid rock so well proportioned it does not seem in the least monstrous, face expressing fine in depth of repose. Supposed to be oldest pyramid, 3 or 4000 years before Christ. Near the Sphinx there is a temple with magnificent monolith square pillars of red granite. Much of the temple has been cleared of sand which once covered all.

The views over delta like an island-dotted sea. The ground soaked for a month or two for wheat. Saw cattle and people, boys and girls as well as men wading to armpits on way home - many must be drowned.

In the P.M. visited park, saw some fine trees, *Plumeria alba* with fine leaves and white very fragrant flowers. *Chorisia*, *crispiflora*, all covered with short wart thorns, a bush *phyllanthus angustifolia* with small flowers along margins of leaf-like stems, and many species of *ficus*.

Then went to Bazaar, a wild street swarming with life of all sorts, fine shops full of people of every color. The streets very narrow and very long - was glad to get out of it. Leg weary and eyewear.

November 6th

All day in hotel writing, packing, reading, etc.

November 7th

Left hotel (bill about \$5.00 a day) at 8:30 this morning for the Nile trip to First Cataract. Started on little steamer at 9:00. Magnificent views of palm-lined banks and palm groved fields of corn and sugar cane. All the little old-fashioned villages embosomed in palms, almost wholly one species, date. Millions of

them, almost the only tree in sight. Around Cairo, a species of acacia forms fine shady avenues. A little way up river only palms, some groves of same age, look gray from ends of leaf stalks on rough trunks, the tops green feathery, the fruit bunches orange colored. The fertile soil bed on west side of river much wider than that of east. At least up to 3.3 k.m. [kilometers] The pyramids valley seldom out of sight, big and little and of several forms (sketches), the plain, straight-lined true pyramid, far the most effective. Back of all the green hopeful, foodful region reached by the river - pure desert on both sides. Near Cairo the bluffs of yellow limestone, wherever the pyramid stone was derived, these quarries still worked. The bluffs in some places 20 miles apart, yellow brown whitened here and there with drifted sand, variously sculptured but flat on top showing edge of tableland instead of top of mountain ridges.

Countless dahabeahs, graceful, great expanse of sail like huge moths or gulls greatly enliven the view. A good many fellahs [fellows] lifting irrigating water by a counter-weighted sweep - should have mills. What would the Dutch say. Saw only one steam pump irrigating sugar cane. Talked too much, took cold a week ago, throat sore, wind very chilly in shady drafts on ship.

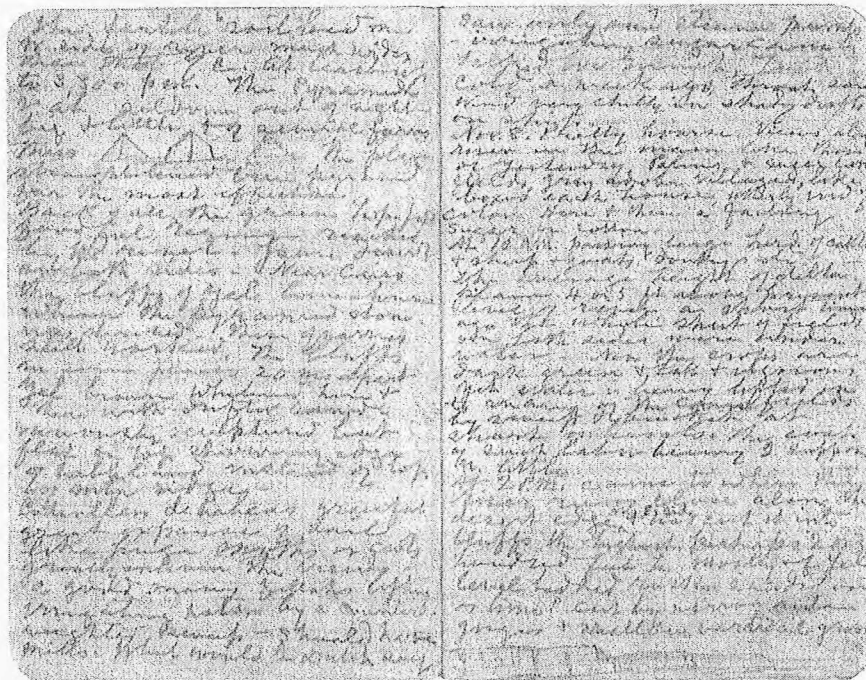
November 8th

Pretty hoarse. Views along river in the main like those of yesterday. Palms and sugar corn fields, gray

adobe villages like boxes each house utterly void of color. Here and there a factory, sugar or cotton.

At 10:00 A.M. passing large herds of cattle and sheep and goats, donkeys, etc. The average height of delta plain 4 or 5 feet above present level of river. A short time ago the whole sheet of fields on both sides were under water. Now the crops are dark green and tall and vigorous, yet water is being lifted on to many of the corn fields by sweep and bucket at short intervals. The cost of such labor being I suppose very little.

At 2:00 P.M. came to where the river runs close along the desert edge on east side and had cut it into bluffs, the highest perhaps 2 or 3 hundred feet high, mostly of yellow bedded rocks sandstone or lime[stone] (?) cut by narrow side gorges and shallow vertical groves. (Sketch). River here about half as wide and a good many dahabeahs, left side of valley between 20 or 30 miles, before



(Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library. Copyright 1984 Muir-Hanna Trust)

lunch lay close alongside a mud village buried in date palms. Each tree cast a separate shadow, the whole palm crown drawn in black on the gray ground, everything gray, buildings, ground, palms, trunks, and to some extent the leaves except these black shadows, the most striking thing in village.

Saw long rectangular house-like structure perhaps for same uses as the pyramids, a marked feature in blue distance on west side, where all pyramids are far as I have seen. The sunset over the Libyan Desert very beautiful. Lovely tones of rose, purple, orange and green which reflected on the muddy river made that also divine.

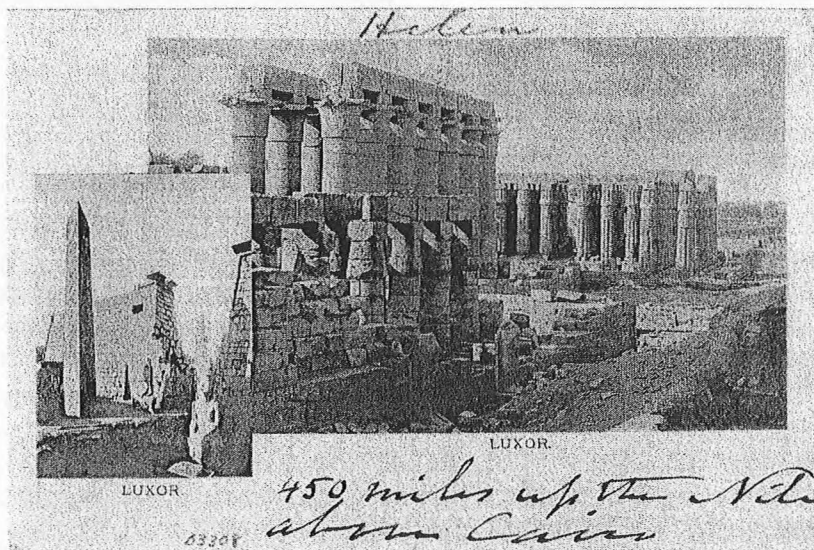
November 9th

Cool enough last evening for double blanket though lots of sheet lightning to eastward throbbing in low horizon clouds. Bronchitis much better from medicine given by Mr. F. Taylor. In the morning the steamer ran an hour or 2 close along the east bluffs, which in places were swept by the river. The limestone weathered a good deal many masses of conglomerate derived from fragments close at hand, all the stones the same sort of rock. Also cavities with coarse crystal masses, coral-like. A few bold headlands. All bare for hundreds of miles, not a plant visible. The cliffs about in caves natural and artificial, some large, cut from solid as churches or tombs. Many huts for hermits who sat and looked and philosophied [philosophised] and got living on green strips here and there. Passed large town on west shore and smaller on east, at both of which the steamer stopped for freight and water and native passengers. The mud houses of both and many other towns being washed away by the river, also much of the valuable land with date trees, sugar cane, etc. Such banks should be protected.

At 2:30 P.M. arrived Assiout. Set off to see town and tombs. The tombs innumerable in high limestone bluffs, the largest cut in living rock into lofty chambers, some picture writing, here and

there a mummy, etc., and many bats. Smell horrid, strong as the centuries. The largest not far from foot of hiss, said to be of the 13th Dynasty.

The hill from top to bottom one vast sepulcher. One of our party who went to the summit reported that there were innumerable small tombs for single bodies, cut in the rock in rows from bottom to top but only one or 2 of the large temple-like tombs, like those at the foot. Jackal dogs mummied, a pile at entrance, upright ears, etc. The same jackal dogs seen



Postcard sent to Helen (Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library. Copyright 1984 Muir-Hanna Trust)

along the Nile. Beautiful sunset.

November 10th

Some mosquitos aboard last evening. Bright absolutely cloudless. Sunlight very trying to eyes. Mine a little sore, most everybody more or less affected - as trying as snow glare seen on sand and water.



Postcard sent to Wanda (Courtesy of the John Muir Papers, Holt-Atherton Special Collections, University of the Pacific Library. Copyright 1984 Muir-Hanna Trust)

Came to place 10:00 A.M. where river washes bluffs on east side as yesterday. Never west side.

Tombs cut in bluffs, or dwellings of hermits. Elevation of bluffs 500 or 400 feet, somewhat earthquake shaken. Palms on every flat at foot of cliffs and shading every village, few acacias. Long strings of pack camels in distance like ostriches - carry any sort of packs. Often buried in brush or sugarcane. Fields lately made from fresh sandbars are mostly used for hay

and pasture. River very crooked hereabouts, many islands. See man plowing with pair camels. Waste of land by cutting of banks is apparently greater than the new lands made by sandbars and diverted banks. Few places. See man plowing with camel tall, and a small ox or cow. Air hazy to south, headlands vanishing at

distance of 20 or 30 miles. Several times today in tracing river bends we were in the middle of the Nile valley or nearly. Passed many towns, stopped at 3 or 4. Date palms continue in endless numbers, rarely one of other species, for garden is taxed about 5 cents each.

Some of towns seem built on hills. These are the old ones, the older the higher, for new houses from generation to generation are built on ruins of old, and the material is mostly mud.

Fine sunset as usual.

November 11th

Lovely cloudless morning. Gull-like boats abundant. Natives irrigating cane and dourti[cotton?] fields very early though cold, say 60°. At 2:00 P.M. all mounted donkeys and rode about 2 miles to see the Temple of Hathor, Egyptian Venus, truly wonderful in size, sublime massive strength and beauty of architecture; square and round shafts covered with figures ornamental and instructive. Every available space out, and in ceiling and all covered with carefully carved hieroglyphics. Some life-size carvings, one said to be Cleopatra. Whole grand building was buried in sand and built over by common adobe dwellings, such buildings discovered by the height of rubbish heaps and drifts. A big light glowing in the true Egyptian darkness of ancient history.

The donkeys great little travelers, feet fairly twinkle. Everybody cries "baksheesh", even those at work lifting water, without breaking the rhythm of the rise and fall of the sweep. Universal beggary prevails.

November 12th

Fine bright cool calm morning, approaching Luxor. Saw water raised by oxen or cows turning wheel loaded with jars or buckets. Strange there are not more of these. At Luxor 9:00 A.M., took carriage for Karnak, 2 miles distant. Most wonderful of all have yet seen in the way of openings into the world's auld lang syne. The red granite obelisk especially beautiful and interesting. One stone each set on one stone pedestal, charming pieces of work. Columns round, square, plain or mostly carved with innumerable figures. Most of the buildings are of sandstone, marvellous avenues of sphinxes, lions with ram's head. Strange that ruins so vast could have been so completely buried and lost as to be built over. Immense ranges of adobe houses on these ruins, some of so-called ruins are in good state of preservation, even fine coloring, painting being in some instances well preserved. Lotus obelisk very beautiful, simply must go again. How old the world is since civilization!

November 13th

Lovely morning as usual. River about 3/4 of miles wide, calm as mill pond, current not visible. Palms, etc. and even distant bluff, banks reflected on its mirror surface. At 9:00 arrived at Edfu and set out on 20 minute walk to the great famous temple built from about 300 B.C. to 50 B.C. A most glorious building showing forth some brave bold gifted man's power in those old days. This temple is alone worth the trip to Egypt.

A great change is now visible on the banks, instead of simple bluffs with shallow or no side canyons, there are many outstanding

or isolated rocks and ridges and many wide and deep side canyons or branches of the Nile Valley on both sides. The river is not 4.00 K.M. flowing close past rocky shore with little or no margin. Whole valley here not exceeding 2 or 3 miles in width.

Boys, Arabs who went with us to temple recited the Wreck of the Royal George, and the Parrot of Cowper, with refreshing flavor in the mud streets of Edfu. Lots of humor in them. An older one displayed knowledge of geography, etc. A day or two ago saw large flock of pigeons alight on river for a moment or two, had no difficulty in rising again. These are house pigeons universally kept here in jars, etc. on house tope. All houses have branches of trees about cornice for their accommodation. All seem to have learned the trick of alighting on water.

The great Temple of Horus over 100 feet high its towers, was all buried and built over, not yet wholly excavated. Many at work digging and restoring. A granite safe about 10 feet cube, one stone, a magnificent piece of work said to have contained an image of Horus. Probably most of the houses of people in those temple days as squalid as those of the present. Few geniuses in any age.

November 14th

Cool, 65°. Slight hazy clouds. River narrow. Arrived Assuan at 8:00 A.M. and after breakfast drove to Cataract house. Large house in shifting sand and granite residual masses, outstanding, upstanding and forming islands in the river like those of glacial lakes. Granite red, from here the long shafts for the celebrated obelisks were derived.

Went by rail 8 miles to Philae, in the morning. Had to cross part of the river in large rowboat to the island. The boatmen sang, ending with Hip-hip-hooray, and promptly passed the hat for baksheesh. The Temple of Isis is most interesting. The damming of the river a mile or two below will overflow the island and submerge the grand ruins to 8 or 10 feet above bases which will be a pity.

The Bishereen tribe of Desert inhabitants have a camp here. They have curious upstanding hair, are nearly black, have camels, donkeys, etc. and live like gypsies. They sell beadwork, etc., and are inveterate beggars like everybody hereabouts. The view of desert bluffs and this island-dotted river is charming from the hotel. All the country is covered with drifting sand. The dust in air during all wind storms must make the climate hard for invalids, especially those with weak lungs. The sun glare on the sand is very trying on eyes and should be counted on by those contemplating a stay for health.

November 15th

Leave for Luxor by rail at 9:15 A.M. Arrive Luxor after very dusty, jiggly, narrow gauge ride at 4:00 P.M. and drive to Luxor House. Only 2 miles from celebrated ruins of Karnak and a few yards from the Luxor Temple.

November 16th

Charming morning, the river nearly a mile wide, smooth as glass, colored with reflections of the tombs, honeycombed mountain on the west side, yellow and purple, etc. Started at 9:00 A.M. to see the tombs and temples of the west side. Crossed in heavy said boat which had to be poled and pulled all the way. On

other side found donkeys and until 3:00 P.M. rode from ruin to ruin, temple to temple, tomb to tomb. Arrived at Luxor Hotel tired and happy at 4:00 P.M. The last great temple we visited is still being dug out of sand and gravel, etc. It has magnificent mountain background and is well worth a long visit.

The Memnon Colossi standing out in the Nile sediments were most interesting. Tombs with brightly painted and figured walls. Tombs were also very interesting. A gloriously beautiful day and full of stupendous monuments of the past.

November 17th

Lovely white morning, white mist, white sky all day and even the sunrises and sunsets are white or whitish. Very calm mornings these white Ind(ian) summers. Interesting to see the Arabs, etc. going to work in fields preparing for crop of barley. Animals with long yokes 10 feet or so, sometimes a small lean cow or mere heifer at one end, a gaunt long-legged camel at the other. Camels with long crooked ostrich-like make a striking show as they stalk across the desert sands, look like ostriches in their gestures as well as general forms at a distance. When walking keep their riders nodding, but fortunately these ungainly patient animals have another gait, a slow gentle shuffling trot, which seems soft, unjolting and easy.

Spent the day up to 5:00 P.M. in examining the Luxor Temple, part of the ancient Thebes which occupied a great space on both sides of the river, and in selecting a lot of fine photos when we took the train for Cairo.

November 18th

Arrived Cairo this morning at 7:30. Spent a rather cold very dusty night in first class carriage with plenty of air, however. The sleeping cars said to be very close and chokey, the compartments very small.

Bought ticket at Cook's for Sydney, 69 pounds by German Lloyd's steamer *Barbarossa*, which is to arrive at Port Said about 6:00 P.M. 22nd instant.

November 19th

Fine weather. Bought more photos of ruins, inhabitants, etc. Wrote to Helen and Louie and sent postals to Dave, Maggie and Miriam Coleman.

November 20th

Start 11:00 A.M. for Port Said. In leaving Shepherd's Hotel paid 7 different persons. Porters from 2 to 5 piastres each. Arrived Port Said 6:00 P.M. and drove to the Savoy Hotel.

November 21st

Walked the busy streets near waterfront. Busy port, ships of all nations coming and going. Great variety of physiognomy. The native stevedores and coal heavers, etc. Very noisy, so also peddlars - quick movements, sinewy strength and loud voices characteristic of Egyptian toilers.

Glorious sunset yesterday, water and sky one in purple and orange. Bought a few things.

November 22nd

Glad we are to go today. Cook's man has been to the hotel to say he would call for our baggage at 4:00 P.M. Am down at the mole and De Lesseps statue watching 2 incoming steamers. After

long tedious wait the *Barbarossa* arrived about 7:30 P.M. and in the darkness and confusion of the ill-lighted harbor got aboard at 9:30. After coaling, started through the canal after midnight.

November 23rd

Reached Ismailia at 10:45, and discharged about 80 passengers with their baggage by noon, then glided on through the desert at 5 knots an hour, passed through several lakes of considerable size which lay smooth and full of reflections like fairyland. The one just east of Ismailia, very beautiful picturesque hills in distance, and patches of palms and Casuarinas irrigated by Nile Canal. Expected to reach Suez at 7:00 P.M. but owing to long detentions at the passing places, did not reach Suez until 10:45. One of the passing places is at head of last large lake. Another nearer Suez - simply a wide part of canal, and it seems wonderful to see large steamers in full glow of electric light gliding past one another at distance of only 8 or 10 feet. Altogether passed about 10.

November 24th

Left Suez at 2:00 A.M. Had fine views of mountainous walls of Gulf of Suez. One mass showed diamond cleaving in rich development. Mt. Sinai pointed out, but none seemed to know it positively. (See several pages ahead for sketch.)

November 25th

Out of sight of land all day. Magnificent electric display after dark. Nearly all the sky in a quick-throbbing glow of sheet lightning mixed with darting zigzag chain lightning. The center of storm was across the desert of Nubia. Many passengers leaned over rail and watched the sky pulses for hours. At 11 o'clock heavy rain reached us. I saw rain storm to northward over Nubian desert before sunset, black ragged rain clouds like those along Chinese coast. All gulches hereabouts show work of cloudbursts though it is said that it seldom or never rains.

November 26th

Wind ahead as usual here, blows into Red Sea from both ends. Therefore with exceptions, one always has wind with at back at whatever end of the sea one enters, and in face going out.

Dark and cloudy, rain falling in Nubia.

November 27th

Fine clear day after electric storm. Gulls in thousands hovering and circling close to surface of sea as if feeding. Stiff head wind, irised spray flying from wave tops. Pass the Strait of Babel-mandeb [Babel Mandeb] about 5:00 P.M. "The Gate of Tears". It is quite short and narrow and shallow. Arrived Aden about midnight.

November 28th

Coaling until 7:00 A.M. Lively merchants alongside in boats, selling ostrich eggs and feathers, fans, horns of antelope, etc. One sort jet black and straight, 4 feet long, magnificent weapons cost 15 shillings. At 7:30 start for "Ceylon's Isle". Warm, interesting. Somali natives trading.

November 29th

Calm, clear, not a whitecap in sight, and but few clouds, mere dabs here and there on eastern horizon. Delicious air, spicy breezes, blooming soft, etc.

Last evening dancing, marching and fireworks celebrating the 25th year of our captain's service with the Company. At the age of 60, 3 years from now, he will be retired on half pay. Good luck to the rosy-faced, jolly, able Teuton. He sent round a glass of champagne to every person at dinner with compliments.

November 30th

All the sky cloudy, making a dark and uncommon morning for this region. A shower was falling in the morning over Somaliland apparently. Cloudy nearly all day, and remarkable cool.

December 1

A little warmer. Sky half cloudy and showers falling to northward. Pleasant loafing weather, neither hot nor cold. Temperature about 80° at 7:00 P.M. and 76° at 5:00 P.M.

December 2

Temperature 81° at 7:00 A.M. and 83° most of day - a wild, fiery threatening sunset, craggy opaque black sooty clouds with hacked, jagged lava-like edges rose from a base of level stratified heavily barred clouds along the horizon. The sun back of these shining through the bars, burning their edges and the edges of the jagged black clouds while through rifts and gorges of the massive cloud, the sun gold poured like ragged cataracts, pouring down black lava rocks, showers fell all around during most of day.

December 3rd

Magnificent clouds all day, and showers round the horizon. Temperature about 82° at night, 81° morning. Glorious sunset but threatening lurid, jagged, lava-like clouds with tendency to rise in rugged towers sooty black, cumulus bosses here and there. Flying fishes very abundant in flocks of 30 or 40 at times, bright silvery skipping and glinting, fluttering from wave to wave a hundred yards or so at a flight.

Curious effect of rather heavy showers on waves, drops each making a separate splash, bead-like drops in millinery rising a few inches in merry dance.

December 4th

Temperature 7:00 A.M. 79°, at 12 M. 80°. A dark, cloudy, showery morning, brisk wind from north. Ship heaving and rocking. White caps abundant. Rain reported at 3:00 A.M. Rain drizzle now 12 M. No poetry apparent about Ceylon's Isle. Expect to get to anchor at Colombo at 6:00 P.M.

December 5th

So ashore at 8:00 A.M. with Mr. ____ [Muir leaves the person's name blank]. Hired guide 6 shillings and carriage 10 for the day. Rained hard last evening, fair now. Had good view of the town and adjacent region within 7 or 8 miles. The farther hotels on the shore have glorious views of sea and surf. At Hotel Galle face, the coconut palm crowds the shore and extends a magnificent growth along the curving coast far as eye can reach - a true forest. This is all owned in comparatively small patches. The happy owners get crops which never fail and which require no cultivation. The tree bears at 7 years of age and every part is put to use. The trunks are nearly smooth instead of being rough and knogly with stub ends of the leaves like those of the Date palm. The leaves are nearly alike in both species. Those of Coco larger and the trees

taller and bigger in general. The tuft of leaves forming crown is often like a wheel as seen against sky and the stems often crooked and tangled. This species form magnificent fringe along the coast far as I have seen. Saw a native climb one and cut off nut and throw it down.

Bread fruit tree noble-looking, has fine large handsome leaves. Jack fruit curious tree, huge squash-like fruit. Saw some fine banyan trees and Dracenas. Lotus with purple flowers common in pools. Lovely plant. Bananas very common and good - a shilling a bunch, 25 cents. Oranges rather poor and dear. Cinnamon common and sensitive plant like Schrankia. Visited Bhuda Temple, old priest showed us many kinds of hells in pictures for different sinners, and got two or three fees out of us. On way to temple in the Court were women and girls making lace, samples of which we, of course, had to buy. The women worshippers saying their prayers and offering dainty simple flowery bouquets was of greatest interest.

Cingalese good looking, dark brown, tough, run well in rickshaws. Fine divers, head or feet foremost, go down in heap but suddenly straighten just before striking the water. Indian hump oxen draw heavy carts, work in pairs or single trotting in light passenger carts.

Natives not in the least negroid though dark. Hair often curly, worn long but not kinky or frizzled.

Large quantities of tea raised on the island at elevation of 4 or 5000 feet. Our ship took on 1000 tons for Australia.

December 6th

Sunday, Still loading tea. Crowds of boys diving for coins. Many catamarans and canoes with outriggers. Yesterday sailed in one, for first time. Fruit pedlars, etc., on the ship. We sailed at 5:00 P.M. and had good view of the coast until dark. Continuous line of Coco fruit and many mountains, the highest 8250 feet (?). Adams 7300 feet (?) Vivid lightnings at night. Fine sunset.

December 7th

Temperature 82°, 8:00 A.M., 87° at 2:00 P.M. Calm. Many flying fish. Cloudy, interesting sunset. Clouds vertical like trees, some picturesque, broad, round-headed like deciduous species, others like conifers, or ringlets always rising from horizontal base clouds, black sooty, assembled in groves and ridge top ranks.

December 8th

Calm, warm (82° morning and evening). Cloudy all day. Magnificent sunset show of the peculiar black semi-cumulous clouds, full of lightning taking this picturesque forms of artists trees or formal spirey conifers. Crossed "The Line" this morning. (Sketch)

Flocks of flying fish, small, perhaps another species. Clouds like pearly shell-lining, glorious show taking every eye.

Mr. Husted gave me fine tdeats [deck][chair]

December 9th

Temperature 82° at 6:30, not quite so calm, a few white caps, poetic. Some squally showers. Dark, almost colorless sunset. Temperature at 9:00 P.M. 82° Showers lower the temperature a degree or two at once, softly, balmily gliding south. New constellations rising nightly.

December 10th

Temperature at 6:30 o'clock 77°. Dark, drizzly morning. Rainbow in southwest. Cumuli nearly pure white with drifting flecks and blotches of black clouds sending down narrow showers in front of cumuli. Cooler all day. Dull colorless cloudy sunset. Sea calm. No white caps. Water beautiful blue.

December 11th

Temperature 77° at 6:30 A.M. Small showers falling around horizon, few white caps. P.M. Head wind freshening. Temperature about 80°, cool on breezy deck. Cloudy sunset, light radiating through clouds. Very still and silent on board, bland, dreamy, restful days.

December 12th

Temperature 9:00 A.M. 76°. Wind fresh from northwest. White caps common. Many flying fish glinting silvery from wave to wave. Few passengers on deck as yet. Rain here and there in narrow showers darkening the horizon. Dull mixed clouds, smothered sunset.

December 13th

Temperature at 4:30 A.M. 72°. Rather stiff head wind, ship heaving enough to disturb poor sailors. Very quite being Sunday. No games. Temperature nearly all day steady at 72°, 73° short time about noon. Dull sunset. A few showers as usual from mixed clouds.

December 14th

Temperature 71°, a temperature lower than since Petersburg days of early July. Silvery haze about horizon at base of rainy-looking clouds. Very few white caps, but heavy swell. The day brighter than usual, no showers. Clear, starry night, the Southern Cross near the horizon in Milky Way soon after dark. Not very striking constellation.

December 15th

Temperature at 6:00 A.M. 68°, surprisingly cool, wind steady from southwest, few white caps. Clouds muddy looking covering half sky, perhaps shower to windward.

11:00 A.M. Temperature 69° 30'. Clouds less than 5/100, a few albatross-like birds, narrow-winged low-flying, skimming the waves. 2:00 P.M. Temperature 69½°, slight shower. At 6:00 P.M. 66 1/2° (cold, sky nearly clear.)

December 16th

Temperature 6:00 A.M. 66½°. Alongside wharf, arrived few minutes ago. With Mr. Kling, went to Perth by rail 40 minutes, 15 miles (?) along coast, almost continuous settlements. Ground

sand, white or yellow. Yet many gum and other trees and bushes, etc. Casuarina, Banksia, Meluca, etc. Zamia. Perth 60,000 population. First went to City Park. Fine large stone pines, agonis or willow gum, scarlet flowered Eucalyptus, a glorious show, very large Americania excelsa, etc. Was directed by 85-year old man to Zoo, crossed ferry. Zoo park only 5 years old, good collection of birds, reptiles, monkeys, kangaroos, deer, etc. for beginning. All in good order, and the native trees preserved; The most striking of which is the "Christmas tree", Nuytsia floribunda, now in full flower, one grand exuberant mass of orange yellow bloom. Belongs to Loranthaceae, Mistletoe family, the tree well rooted in ground, picturesque as any oak. Like oak in form, gray bark, leaves leathery, small stems jointed old-fashioned tree about 30 or 40 feet high, 18 inches diameter, leaves linear, fleshy, endures all sorts of abuse, tracking, burning, etc., and blooms the better the more it is abused and made to suffer, like good martyr Christians. Hogs fond of roots which they dig up and eat. Both roots and branches brittle. Very strangest of trees here. After leaving

gardens made acquaintance of the Director, Mr. Sanif, whom we invited to lunch and after recrossing ferry he took us on long drive through Kings Park, 25 miles (?) Saw many fine trees in old wild forest (though the merchantable timber had been cut.) Paper bark tree, large very picturesque fine myrtle foliage, belongs to Myrtaceae, Meluca, Banksia, etc. The Red gum. Eucalyptus calefolia, very valuable wood. Handsome spreading tree. One of most valuable for timber. Zamia everywhere like a weed.

The day very windy and cool. At evening ate dinner at Mr. Sonif's home, pleasant family. Kept me talking till

late, then all went to Professor Woodward's, saw photos of trees, etc. Promised to exchange. Got fine painting of large flowered Gum for Louie. Had glorious day, got back to ship at 11:00 P.M. Never were strangers more royally and kindly entertained. Wish I could spend a year here.

December 17th

Leave Freemantle at 10:00 A.M. Cool. Temperature 66½°. Magnificent wave explosions on rocks few miles out. Land picturesque, massive white sand dunes. Few trees visible. Hills seem brush covered.

December 18th

Near land until late P.M. when we passed the West Cape of the great Australian Bight. Will not see land again until

Damfer Barbarossa,
between Ceylon and Australia,
Dec. 15th, 1903.

Dear Louie:

We left Ceylon on the 6th, and expect to reach Freemantle, West Australia, tomorrow. I enjoyed two days at Ceylon very much, and though very broad I enjoy these southern waters. Last eve saw the famous Southern Cross. This would have interested Grandma.

I long for news from home but I must just wait. How slow we seem to go, though we sail between 300 and 400 miles every day. This is a very large and comfortable ship, and of course I have made a lot of acquaintances. Six or eight of them will probably go with me through Tasmania, New Zealand, Australia, and up through the islands to Singapore. It will be quite a while yet ere I can find the end of this huge journey, though I feel I am on the home stretch.

I hope to mail this at Freemantle, but do not expect to leave this ship until we reach Melbourne or Sydney.

With love to all,
Ever yours,
J.M.

Adelaide. The forests of Jarra and other valuable species of timber gums back of Albany were distinctly seen from the ship. The hills facing the sea showed sand dunes which in some places looked like glaciers, but were mostly green as of brush, but back a few miles the forests made fine show on horizon and dark in mass of mountain sides, particularly so as the great bay is approached. Here too many of the isolated rock masses are somewhat dome-shaped and look like some of the Yosemite rocks, both in form and color. That the coast was glaciated I have no doubt. Temperature 6:00 A.M. 62°, Noon 65°. 7:00 P.M. 62°.

December 19th

Temperature 6:30 A.M. 60°. The wind is coming straight from the south. Ice land, we smell and feel the Antarctic Continent. Ice bergs occasionally float this far north into Great Bight.

Large numbers of a species of Albatross white below except wing tips, white above except black wings, medium size, say, 6 foot expanse. Also small species all black or nearly so. Temperature 4:00 P.M. 62°. Slight shower, cloudy, nearly complete cover. The blue of small patch of sky in rift reflected on sea forming a lovely field of deep indigo blue near horizon, appearing very bright and beautiful amid the general leaden color of the water.

December 20th

Sunday. Temperature 5:30 A.M. 62°. Clear, bright most all day. Temperature 7:00 P.M. 62°. Albatrosses following ship seemingly night and day.

December 21st

6:30 A.M. Temperature 63°. Passing small islands on both sides. Have now crossed the mouth of the Great Bight. Dull foggy rainy morning. Expect to be in Adelaide harbor between 12 and 1 o'clock. Arrived shortly after 1:00, but on account of bad management did not get off for the City until 3:00 P.M. Distance to wharf 3 miles, wind very high, no harbor, got jolly tossing, fearing capsizes; had 40 minute ride on train, reached city about 4:20 P.M.

Curious scirpus with flat broad stems and leaves like those of iris, 3 or 4 feet high in large clumps and fields, holding the sand dunes, very striking, making big show.

In Botanic garden, magnificent old aboriginal Eucalyptus. Trees 6 to 8 feet diameter, 75 feet high, and about the same in width. Magnificent dome-headed *Auricularias* - *Cunninghamia*, *Grevillia*, etc. *Caledendron*, beautiful flowery tree, Cedar of Lebanon, *Deodar* and *Taxodium*, etc. No open places, all planned for shade. Fine town 130,000 population, on level or undulating coast plain, bounded at distance of 5 or 6 miles by hills clad in dark Eucalyptus forests. Wish could have spent week in them.

December 22nd

Started this morning at 2 o'clock (?) Wind high, nearly ahead. Temperature at 6:30 A.M. 64°. Yesterday the heat very oppressive in the city in sunshine. Cloudy rain on distant land visible. Yellow hills low next coast. Moderately high hills dark with Eucalyptus forests a little way back. Trees visible on horizon. Cold all day. Temperature at 4:00 P.M. 60°, everybody wearing wraps and overcoats. Spray flying over bows. Decks wet.

December 23rd

Head wind, sea spotted with white caps, ship pitching and rolling a little. Temperature 7:00 A.M. 63°. Expect to reach Melbourne about 5 or 6 P.M. Temperature 10:00 A.M. 62°. At 4:00 P.M. take pilot off mouth of channel amid islands leading to city, distant now 40 miles. On all the higher ground forests, on hills low brush Eucalyptus (?). Channel dredged long distances. Magnificent cumuli, white, finely divided like cauliflowers, very unlike the black lightning-filled ringlet form cumuli of evening all along the Chinese and Indian coasts.

Arrived city at 7:00 P.M. fine harbor and wharf. Most of passengers went up town. Harbor lights fine, but not equal to those of Hongkong, blending with stars.

December 24th

Went to Botanic Garden. Director Gilfoil, Nicta Senatica. Mr. Perkins had charge in his place. Very kind. Gave information on largest amygdaline Gums. He never saw one over 300 feet, but believes some are near 400. Mean to see Chief of Forest Department for literature on subject. Was directed by Mr. Perkins to good photographer Caire. Found a lot of good pictures of interesting scenery with Eucalyptus forests and fern forests. A Gum tree, 40 feet in diameter is considered a giant.

In the afternoon, went to Zoo and found Mr. D. LeSwent, who showed us the most curious of the birds and beasts. Lyre bird, Bower bird, Australian quail. Tapir from New Guinea, *Ornithorhynchus*, *Echidna*, etc. Some fine large lions and tigers etc.

Called at Cook's and got information about New Zealand. Will require 6 or 7 weeks for trip. Got back to ship at 6:30 P.M. a little tired. Melbourne is fine town. Wide streets, well paved, good substantial buildings, people apparently healthy, good-natured. Many storied buildings, distant from port about 3 or 4 miles.

December 25th

Start at 6:50 A.M. for Lint's beyond Healsville, 2 1/2 hours by rail to Healsville, 3 hours by stage to Lindts. Arrived at 2:00 P.M. A charming place in the heart of forest primeval, where trees are tallest and least changed by man. Tallest trees about 270 feet, growth arrested by parasite. Top limbs die first. 10 feet diameter uncommon. Wide spreading knotty trees amygdaloides. Fire runs to top under bark after death must be grand sight. Underbrush very rich, young gums, acacias, sassafras, pepper tree, glorious ferns, etc. Common pteris covers all ground, some 8 feet high, fine aspidium like fern with curious central fertile frond, growing in rich bottoms beneath tree ferns. Magnificent beech 5 to 6 feet diameter, small leaves like huckleberry, though true fagus. Blackwood acacia has beautiful tall stately round bole, occasionally 70 to 80 feet high, leaves silvery. The tallest amygdaline gums have brilliant silvery foliage seen against sun looking up. The ride through fields and orchards and cattle pastures interesting as showing sources of wealth sustaining Melbourne. No boulders glacial. Bed rock metamorphic slates or coarse granite.

From Healsville to Black's Spur Hermitage charming all the way, nearly through Government land. Soon reach the unchanged

forest. The view in every direction from Hermitage is of boundless extension of trees over hill and dale like the Appalachian.

December 26th

Slept well. Charming morning, calm, cool, bright, glorious sunshine, hushed, peaceful, vast woods. Last evening thunder storm and after a heavy shower the sun shone on the wet leaves, making delightful brightness and the cooled air full of fresh ozone delicious. How the tree ferns enjoyed it! After breakfast Mr. Lintd assembled a party and conducted us through the best of the great forest hereabouts. Mostly 2 species of Eucalyptus, stringy bark and netted bark and hybrids, fagus with leaves like Andromeda, 5 foot diameter. Fine trees, Acacia, Blackwood, tall straight boles, beautifully reticulated bark. Sassafras, pepper tree, etc. The great trees Eucalyptus amygdaloidae are about 200 feet high average, a few 250, a very few 20 or 30 feet taller. Mr. Lintd who says he has been 40 years in "The Bush" does not believe a single tree on the continent exceeds 300 feet in height. The rings are indistinct on large trees. The few I was able to count showed that even the very large trees are not very old, say, 200 years or 300. (?)

December 27th

Sunday. Sudden change from 85° to 75°. 95° in Melbourne yesterday. The temperature fell rapidly on change of wind from the land to sea.

December 28th

Temperature 7:30 A.M. 66° and at 4:00 P.M. 66°. Went up town with 3 German friends. Visited the aquarium. Jolly Irish gardener showed us over his collection of roses and gave us choice specimens while waiting the opening of the Aquarium. There in also a small picture gallery, collection of minerals and agricultural and forest products in connection with fishes, seals, penguins, gulls, pelicans and other water birds. Monkeys, song birds, etc., an attractive show and school for children and big children. With the Zoo also and Botanic Gardens, the Melbourne people are well off for rest and recreation places.

Draw 30 pounds at Cook's, bought a few books and got back to ship at 12:30 P.M. Wrote letter to Louie. After lunch, rain rather heavy from 3 to 8:00 P.M.

December 29th

Temperature 6:30 A.M. 61°. On account of rain did not get off last evening until 11:30 P.M. Fair this morning but cloudy -

broken decaying storm clouds drifting beneath horizontal stratified masses lovely pale blue sky patches between. Land in sight (at 8:30) with hints of forests. About noon passed groups of island and outstanding coast rocks plainly glaciated granitic (?) rocks. Moutonees 4 or 500 feet high with sheer faces all in one direction. (Sketch)

At night sea phosphorescent, beautiful silver fire in foam

waves and a multitude of more permanent star-like masses close to ship's side, in the churned gray water like stars in Milky Way.

December 30th

Temperature 7:00 A.M. 68°. Cloudy, slight rain. Land in sight most of morning, forested. Expect to arrive Sydney at 5 or 6:00 this evening. Arrived at 5:00 P.M., docked and got our luggage through Customs House and up to the Australia Hotel.

December 31st

Mild, rather warm. 75° at 7:00 A.M. Walked in Botanic Gardens, ground beautifully modulated glacially with fine views of arms of the harbor bay. Saw cypresses, Macrocarpus, Pinus insignis, Magnolia grandiflora, Libocedrus, etc. Araucaria excelsa, Cookii, Bidwelli. The Cookii from New Caledonia is like excelsa but much richer in foliage, the leaves far more numerous all round, branchlets smaller and less angular. A magnificent tree seemingly not a whit less beautiful

or interesting than excelsa. A wonderful race of trees. Bark peeling off in horizontal stiff curls or rolls like that of cherry; color on fresh surfaces, deep rich purple.

January 1st, 1904

A good deal of noise last evening. Ships gaily decorated with lines of flags. At 11:00 started for gardens. Spent 2 hours. Many were eating lunch picnic style. Saw many interesting trees - Turkey oak, Q. Cerris, large handsome drooping branchlets, also Q. Virens (?) Q. agrifolia Q. Coccinea, Q. Wirlizeni. In the afternoon, engaged passage on the Ventura for Auckland, and at 5:27 P.M. took train for Mt. Victoria in the Blue Mountains, 70 miles from Sydney about 3600 feet above sea level. Arrived about 8:00 P.M. The first 20 or 25 miles nearly level fertile land. Second crop Eucalyptus and patches of Paper bark in full flower in pastures and commons. Then the foot hills of the mountains are reached, with heavy grades. Many sheer precipices fronting gullies and ravines in long lines - the rock sandstone in nearly level strata. Soil poor,

Damfer Barbarpessa.
Melbourne, Australia,
Dec. 28, 1903.

Dear Louie:

We arrived here on the eve of the 23d, spent the 24th in the botanical and zoological gardens and the 25 and 26 out in the heart of the wild eucalyptus woods 60 or 70 miles from here, and had a glorious time. The woods hereabouts are said to be the best in the country, a government reservation. An ideal Australian forest such as I have dreamed of for many years but hardly hoped to see. Should I see no more of Australia and the sky about the Southern Cross I would be repaid for my long journey many times over.

The ground is all mossy and ferny, and the forest is 3 stories high, 1st one of lovely tree ferns, 2d one of beech, sassafras, acacia, etc., and the 3d of gigantic eucalyptus covering hill and dale far and near - never imagined a gum forest could be so beautiful - a place after my own heart.

In an hour or two we sail for Sidney, where I shall leave this fine ship which has been my home for more than a month. After some days in the Blue Mountains back of Sidney I mean to go to New Zealand which I ought to see now I am here, though I ought to be at home. Then up to Java by New Guinea to Japan and then straight for S.F. I long awfully to see you. Love to all again and again.

Ever the same,
J.M.

of course, and trees small. Many killed by girdling for the sake of supposed improvement in pasturage. Rain in evening.

January 2nd

Walked about the village in the morning. In the afternoon went on train 30 miles to Eskdale, at foot of famous zigzag in long valley with walls in part sheer. Glacial traces not apparent. The side canyons or valleys all seem to begin with stream, however small. Sandstones easily eroded and perhaps underlaid by limestone, certainly by more easily eroded rocks, thus causing undermining as in the Grand Canyon of the Colorado. If glaciated at all, long ago and the ice must have lain in squirming folds with but little thrusting trend determining power in the erosion of valleys. Enjoyed wide views, hill and mountain waves rising beyond and beyond each other, heavily or rather densely forested with round-headed Eucalyptus like those of the Alleghenies somewhat. The forests made up of comparatively small trees. A good many herbaceous and shrubby plants deck the floor.

In the forenoon, about 10 o'clock, drove 5 or 6 miles along ridge to Wentworth Monument, erected to commemorate the services of Baxton Wentworth in first crossing the Blue Mountains and showing the way to pastures, mines, etc., beyond.

January 3rd

Start for Jenolan Caves, 36 miles distant from Mt. Victoria. Have private stage. Cold, rain with high wind, about noon rain mostly ceased, but wind continued to blow hard and cool. First half much of way along cultivated valley, corn, wheat, hay, etc.: last half through continuous forest with many dead spots and strips, miles in extent for pastures, or farm size. A sad sight especially the tens of thousands of dead bleached tree ruins prostrate encumbering the ground, or erect gaunt bleached stump with few stubs of main branches stretched to heaven as if for help. Many broad Vicus with a few real mountains and a few glacial fountains well defined at wide intervals at elevation of about 5000 or 6000 feet at Half Way House, elevation 3700 feet, some well round glacial bosses of granite. Also wide bottomed valleys in granite or meta slates must have been glaciated but long ago.

Arrived early in afternoon, and took walk. The Hotel buildings of limestone belong to Government and are leased. Located at bottom of hopper made of very steep, yet flowery and well forested hills. The approach to these hotel cottages is perfectly magnificent and charming. The 4-horse teams dash at gallop through a noble cave arch from side to side of limestone ridge in which the caves are. Ferns near mouth of arch, trees aloft on ridge. Know of nothing like this way, nearly all natural, in the world.

January 4th

Went through one of the 3 caves in forenoon; another in the afternoon and the last in evening after dinner. Walked perhaps 8 or 10 miles through the heart of a gray rough marble ridge or mountain, along many wide and narrow jewelled alleys to many jewelled halls and nooks and secret chambers, decorated infinitely with the ordinary stalactites and stalagmites, etc., of every form and color, and with many forms of crystal limestone fabrics like graceful cloth hangings in folds ineffable beautiful. These cloth-like fabrics were also translucent and varied much in color and pattern. Chambers many, small with exquisitely fine small jewels, the whole lighted with electricity, and the chambers and streets further specially lighted with limelight by the guides. The most delicately beautiful of the stalactite groves and crystals are in chambers mostly small, formed beneath broad folds of overarching stalactite material, the lime being thus worked over and over again with constantly increasing fineness of wildness. The sweetness of tone of stone harps is wonderful.

The flat streets[sheets] also musical and the forms themselves of these crystalline masses, gatherings, constellations, are also musical.

Many singing and shouting birds, some of brilliant plumage, especially the red long-tailed parrots which are tame because being on a government reservation no shooting is allowed. The rock wallabies, or kangaroos are also tame. Many dwell in the rocks and recesses of the cave ridge and come quite near the observer. They are about the size of large woodchucks. Perhaps a little larger. They climb or rather jump will, look in the face like a chipmunk, and are the queerest, most ridiculous looking mountaineers conceivable. They are a species of kangaroo.

Sydney, Australia,
January 1st, 1904

Dear wife and bairns:

Happy New Year and everything good be yours. Little did I think when I left home that the new year would find me so far from California. It is midsummer here, with very warm weather and of course it is not easy to realize that this is a genuine new year's day. I spent Christmas in a grand wild ferny eucalyptus forest 60 or 70 miles from Melbourne, and to-day I'm going a little way into the Blue Mountain forests about Mt. Victoria, and never could holidays be more delightfully celebrated by a California tree lover, if only you could be with me. But how long it is since I even heard from you.

Yesterday in the botanical gardens I found a new Araucaria (new to me), the one from new Caledonia named for Captain Cook. It is even more beautiful than the exelsa from Norfolk Island. The Bidwell species grows in great forests not far from Brisbane, and I hope to see it in all its glory of wildness.

On the 11th of this month I intend to sail for New Zealand for a month to visit the strange forests, geysers, glaciers, ferny fiords, etc., returning to Sidney via Tasmania, and sailing thence for Singapore March 2d, and thence to Japan and thence to San Francisco direct - an awful long way, but it seems best and my health is so much improved you will hardly know me.

Give my hearty New Year greetings to everybody.

Ever with love,
John Muir

[envelope addressed Mrs. John Muir, Martinez, California, U.S.A.]

Many charming rock ferns cover the steep hillsides and gay flowers and trees. Hills said to be too steep for cattle, they fall and roll to foot of the slopes like awkward mountaineers.

Along the stream which flows from cave ridge there are fine trees, mostly Casuarinas which has gray finely closely furrowed bark, thick masses of curious Equisetum-like foliage and waves gracefully as willow. The minute teeth around the joints of needles are probably the tree leaves.

One of the gums which grows at elevation of near sea level to 2000 feet above, has yellow brown bark of very striking appearance. The foliage of most species of Eucalyptus is beautifully red when young, making the trees look as if covered with flowers. Also lobed and rounded in bossy swelling outlines.

January 5th

Charming calm, sunny morning. Had walk before breakfast. Started for Mt. Victoria at 9:30, pleasant drive. Many Casuarinas along stream within 8 or 10 miles of Mt. Victoria. Around about 4:00 P.M., met two motor cars carrying passengers, also 2 stage coaches well filled going to the caves. 3000 to 4000 a year said to visit the caves as tourists, going in all the year round.

After dinner started for Katoombi. Arrived about 8:00 P.M. Good hotel, was delighted to find the Husteads and Scotch fellow-voyagers of Barbarossa stopping here. We all intend going to New Zealand together. Such acquaintances make one feel at home most anywhere everywhere.

January 6th

The scenery here very fine - boundless roads, deep valleys with precipitous bands of sandstone running like ribbons around their sides. Blue in distant heights as well as hollows. Well deserve name of Blue Mountains. Highest about 4000 feet. Sadly in need of lofty white summits, real mountains for these foothills so gloriously forested. Had drive and walk to Falls and Parks (Government) lovely glens, ferny flowery trees - a few real tree ferns. The Falls would be thought nothing of in California, but the surroundings are glorious in plants. Found 3 more new Banksias, one looks like pine in foliage; another with soft broad velvety leaves, and lots of other plants nearly all new to me. A considerable number of tourists hereabouts enjoying the fresh air and scenery, etc. A few sassafras trees, 70 or 80 feet high. Some acacias in full bloom, white make grand show. Saw flock of 50 or so of beautiful bright blue birds. Pinus insignis from California is almost the pine planted here and at the caves, and here it seems to thrive better even than at home. At 1:30 P.M. start for Sydney. Arrive about 4:00 P.M., and thus ended a charming trip of about 350 miles. Distance to caves from Sydney 156 miles.

January 7th

Went to agent for tickets to Auckland - Mr. Kling, Mr. Sheils, Mr. Riddle and self - then set out on short trip about the famous Sydney harbor. It looks somewhat like a glacial fiord, but the stratified sandstones and slates serve badly as monuments of glacial action. The shores everywhere are clad in trees and shrubs except where occupied with buildings. The favorite tree for planting here is the Araucaria, mostly excelsa and they do well. At Manby, a sort of Coney Island for Sydney, it is almost the only

tree planted along the streets and shores of the bathing places. Find sandy beaches.

From Manby over to a ferry 3 or 4 miles. The road runs through a fine shaggy wild common. Most of the big Melaleucas and Eucalyptus have been slaughtered, but there is a fine hopeful second growth and a lot of interesting bushes and small trees, Banksia and Hakea, etc. where one could wander happy for years.

January 8th

Went to Botanic Gardens to see Mr. Maiden, the Director. He was attending an inquiry into origin of fire in some of the Garden buildings, and could spare me but little time. Directed me to the Queensland Araucarias, Bidwelli and Cunninghamii, and said there were no Eucalyptus in Australia much, if any, over 300 feet in height. That all the stories attributed to Baron Muller were false or gross exaggerations. Went back to the gardens in the afternoon. Am much interested in the fine collection of Agathis, Araucarias, etc., some of the latter 3 to 4 feet diameter. Many fine species from New Caledonia (See end of book).

January 9th

Saw the good ship Barbarossa sail today. Felt lonely as she moved from the wharf.

The Australia Sydney
Jan. 11th, 1904

Dear Louie:

In a few hours I expect to sail for Auckland, New Zealand, on the steamer Ventura, to be gone a month or so. I hope to get a good general view of both islands with their geysers, strange forests and glaciers, etc. I expect to sail from here for home March 2d by way of Java and Japan, arriving in San Francisco some time in May on the Korea or Siberia.

In returning to Sydney from New Zealand I hope to get a glimpse of the forests of Tasmania, a little more of the region about Melbourne, and of the forested region through which the railway passes to Sydney. Then I hope to have about a week in which to go by rail into the Blue Mountains back of Brisbane to see the grand wild forests of Araucaria Bidwelli and of Araucaria Cunninghamii. On the way to Singapore I will see something of New Guinea, Sumatra, etc.

In the Blue Mountains about Mt. Victoria and the Jenolan Caves 150 miles from here I had a glorious time in the strange wild forests and gardens. How many curious trees and flowers and birds I've seen!! A trip Helen and Wanda would have enjoyed. Much love to you all, Maggie, Sarah, Dave. I'll be glad to get home, though busy and well every way.

Ever thine,
John Muir

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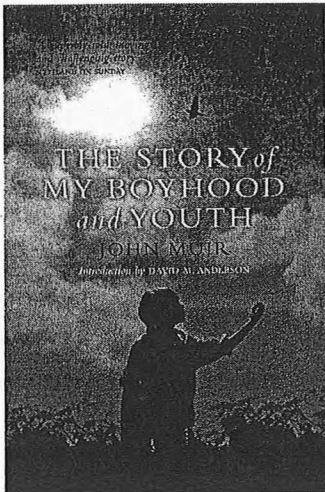
The Story of My Boyhood and Youth

by John Muir

Introduction by David M. Anderson.

Edinburgh: Birlinn Ltd., 2006

Reviewed by Richard F. Fleck, author and retired professor



David Anderson has written a fine introduction to the first Scottish edition of Muir's *Story of My Boyhood and Youth* by explaining that John Muir is truly being rediscovered in his native land of Scotland. This book follows at least two other Scottish editions of Muir including *Sacred Summits* edited by Graham White and reviewed in an earlier *John Muir Newsletter*. David Anderson explains that this Muir book is different from others, as short as it is, because it is truly an autobiography written late in his life. Muir, Anderson explains, hated writing for publication as it drained him of further

opportunities of exploring the wild. It was Edward Harriman who cajoled Muir to begin writing his autobiography at his lodge at Klamath Lake (Oregon) in 1908. Muir went through a number of drafts before publishing this book in 1913. It must be noted, however, that Muir was already an accomplished writer by 1908 as he had published *The Mountains of California* in 1894 and *Our National Parks* (comprised of a series of essays written for *The Atlantic Monthly*) in 1901 not to mention his series of nationally recognized essays "Studies in the Sierra" for *The Overland Monthly* during the early 1870's.

Where Anderson's introduction is truly significant is in its providing the reader with ample information about Dunbar, Scotland during and after John Muir's boyhood. We get an ethnographic picture of Dunbar from paupers to aristocrats, laborers, artisans, shopkeepers and merchants. Dunbar, we are informed, was surrounded by cattle on the plain and sheep in the hills as well as grain and potato farms. In the town itself many family businesses produced ropes, sails, harnesses, saddles and repaired carriages, carts and farm machinery—all this and beer breweries and whiskey distilleries too! Dunbar also served as a fishing port and as a mercantile port with a large merchant fleet.

Political reform of the 1830's tended to democratize the town council that enabled commoners to serve, including John Muir's father, Daniel, who was a successful Dunbar merchant. Anderson provides the reader with ample information about Daniel Muir's evangelical background and of his becoming a stern reformist, so stern that emigration would offer him more complete freedom to practice his own brand of Presbyterianism. So it was not for economic reasons that Daniel Muir pulled up his family roots. Though Anderson makes no specific mention of Daniel's marriage to Ann Gilrye in 1833, he does state that it was the Gilryes who gave young Muir an appreciation for reading, especially Scottish poetry and lore. His excellent schooling at Dunbar grammar school certainly helped prepare him for his entry into the University of Wisconsin a score of years after the family's emigration to Wisconsin.

This edition of *The Story of My Boyhood and Youth* is further enhanced with early-day photographs of Dunbar from the Muir-Hanna trust which were not used in the original 1913 edition.

--Richard F. Fleck, author and retired professor.

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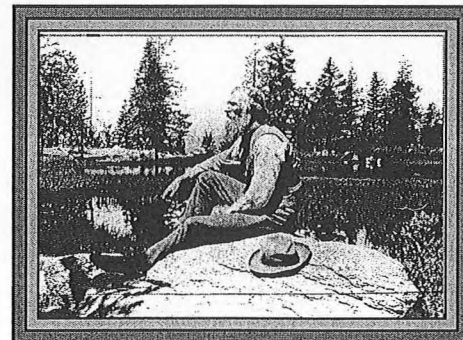
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☞ CONTENTS THIS ISSUE ☞

❖ JOHN MUIR'S WORLD TOUR (PART IV) ❖

❖ NEWS & NOTES ❖

❖ THE TRAMP'S WEB SITE IS VAMPED ❖

❖ BOOK REVIEW OF *THE STORY OF MY BOYHOOD AND YOUTH* ❖

